IN THE CLAIM

1. [Cancelled]

2. [currently amended]        A method ~~according to claim 5 wherein:~~ for processing data packets in a gateway element, said method comprising steps of:

- providing screening information comprising a set of rules, said screening information being hierarchically structured so that it comprises a first rule, which specifies first header information, and a subset of rules relating to said first rule, said subset of rules comprising a second rule, which specifies second header information, and a second subset of rules, said second subset of rules relating to said second rule,

- processing a data packet according to a rule belonging to the set of rules, the header information of said data packet matching the header information of said rule.

- in said step of comparing a data packet, comparing said data packet ~~is compared~~ to said second subset of rules only if the header information of the data packet matches the header information of ~~the~~ said second rule.

3. [currently amended] A method according to claim ~~1~~5, wherein

- said set of rules is an ordered sequence of rules,

- said subset of rules is an ordered sub-sequence of said ordered sequence of rules, and

- in said step of comparing a data packet, said data packet is compared to the rules in the order defined by the ordered sequence.

1      4. [currently amended]      A method according to claim ~~1~~5, wherein, for said subset

2      of rules, an entity which is authorized to modify said subset, is specified.


1      5. [currently amended]      A method ~~according to claim 1~~for processing data packets in

2      a gateway element, said method comprising the steps of:

3      - providing screening information comprising a set of rules, said

4      screening information being hierarchically structured so that it comprises a first

5      rule, which specifies first header information, and a subset of rules relating to

6      said first rule;

7      - comparing a data packet to said subset of rules only if the header

8      information of the data packet matches the header information of the first rule;

9      and

10      - processing a data packet according to a rule belonging to the set of

11      rules, the header information of said data packet matching the header information

12      of said rule, wherein at least one rule belonging to said subset of rules

13      comprises a generic information portion, said generic information portion to be

14      replaced with second information before a data packet is compared to said at

15      least one rule.


1      6. [currently amended] A method ~~according to claim 1~~for processing data packets

2      in a gateway element, said method comprising the steps of:

3      - providing screening information comprising a set of rules, said

4      screening information being hierarchically structured so that it comprises a first

5      rule, which specifies first header information, and a subset of rules relating to

6       said first rule.

7               - comparing a data packet to said subset of rules only if the header

8       information of the data packet matches the header information of the first rule.

9       and

1 0              - processing a data packet according to a rule belonging to the set of

1 1       rules, the header information of said data packet matching the header information

1 2       of said rule, wherein said screening information comprises a first part, which is

1 3       modifiable by an entity authorized to configure said gateway element, and a

1 4       second part, which is modifiable by an entity specifically authorized to modify

1 5       said second part.

7. [cancelled]

8. [cancelled]

9. [cancelled]

10. [cancelled]

11. [cancelled]

12. [cancelled]

13. [cancelled]

1       14. [currently amended]      A computer program product comprising program code

2       means stored on a computer readable medium for performing, when said program

3       product is run on a computer, the steps of

4               - providing screening information comprising a set of rules, said

5       screening information being hierarchically structured so that it comprises a first

6       rule, which specifies first header information, and a subset of rules relating to

7       said first rule,

8               - comparing a data packet to said subset of rules only if the header

9     information of the data packet matches the header information of the first rule,

10    and

11        - processing a data packet according to a rule belonging to the set of

12    rules, the header information of said data packet matching the header information

13    of said rule, and wherein at least one rule belonging to said subset of rules

14    comprises a generic information portion, said generic information portion to be

15    replaced with second information before a data packet is compared to said at

16    least one rule.

1    15. [currently amended] A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data

2    structure comprising:

3        screening information fields, wherein said screening information stored in

4    said screening information fields is hierarchically structured so that it comprises a

5    first rule, which specifies first header information, and a subset of rules relating

6    to said first rule, said first header information being common to said rules

7    belonging to said subset of rules, and wherein at least one rule belonging to said

8    subset of rules comprises a generic information portion, said generic information

9    portion to be replaced with second information before a data packet is compared

10    to said at least one rule.

1    16. [currently amended]    A data structure (42) according to claim 15, wherein said

2    subset of rules comprises a second rule (421), which specifies second header

3    information, and a second subset of rules (422, 423), said second subset of rules

4    relating to said second rule, said second header information being common to said rules

5    belonging to said second subset of rules.

1    17. [cancelled]


Please add the following new claims:

1    18. [new]  An arrangement including at least one gateway element and a database

2    entity, said at least one gateway element comprising:

3         - means storing information for screening data packets and

4         - means for processing data packets, said processing involving

5    comparison of a data packet header to header information specified in said

6    screening information,

7         - said database entity including means for providing information for

8    screening data packets,

9         - said at least one gateway element including means for receiving at least

1 0   part of said information for screening data packets from said database entity,

1 1        and said processing means functioning to compare header information of a

1 2   data packet to screening information comprising a first rule, which specifies first

1 3   header information, and a subset of rules relating to said first rule, and configured

1 4   to compare a data packet to said subset of rules only if the header information of

1 5   the data packet matches the header information of said first rule, and wherein said

1 6   screening information comprises a first part, which is modifiable by an entity

1 7   authorized to configure said gateway element, and a second part, which is

1 8   modifiable by an entity specifically authorized to modify said second part.


1    19. [new] A computer program product comprising program code means stored on a

2    computer readable medium for performing, when said program product is run on a

3      computer, steps of

4           - providing screening information comprising a set of rules, said

5           screening information being hierarchically structured so that it comprises a first

6           rule, which specifies first header information, and a subset of rules relating to

7           said first rule,

8           - comparing a data packet to said subset of rules only if the header

9           information of the data packet matches the header information of the first rule,

1 0          and

1 1          - processing a data packet according to a rule belonging to the set of rules,

1 2          the header information of said data packet matching the header information of said

1 3          rule, and wherein said screening information comprises a first part, which is

1 4          modifiable by an entity authorized to configure said gateway element, and a second

1 5          part, which is modifiable by an entity specifically authorized to modify said second

1 6          part.

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 15 and 17 were rejected as directed to non statutory subject matter. In response to these requests, claims 1 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 15 have been amended as follows:

2. [currently amended]    A method <u>according to claim 5 wherein:</u> ~~for processing data packets in a gateway element, said method comprising steps of~~:

        ~~- providing screening information comprising a set of rules, said screening information being hierarchically structured so that it comprises a first rule, which specifies first header information, and a subset of rules relating to said first rule,~~